

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

Published by A. B. Claxton & Co., at \$5 a year, payable in advance.

VOL. VI.—No. 5.] WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1838. [WHOLE No. 161.

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT.

DEFENCE OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THE

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

Quartermaster General's Report on the Defence of the Western Frontier.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 7, 1837.

SIR : I have had the honor to receive a copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 11th of October, and of one of the Senate of the 14th of the same month, both calling for a plan of defence for the Western frontier; which were referred to this office from the War Department, for reports.

Although my attention is so engrossed with the constant press of current business as to leave but little time for those researches which are necessarily involved in such an enquiry, I will endeavor to comply with your call, but without the hope or expectation of doing any thing like justice to so important a subject.

As those resolutions are in terms the same, they may, in order to avoid repetition, be treated jointly, in a single report; and I will proceed to notice the several points in the very judicious order in which they are presented in the resolutions themselves.

1st. "The positions to be permanently occupied by garrisons."

The Western frontier may be deemed to comprehend the region lying between Red river to the south and the Upper Mississippi to the north. In a military sense, the left flank of this extended line now rests on Fort Towson, near the junction of the Kiamechi with the Red river, and the right upon Fort Snelling, at the junction of the St Peter's with the Mississippi, a distance of one thousand miles. The intermediate positions are Fort Gibson, at the junction of the Arkansas and Grand river, and Fort Leavenworth, on the Missouri.

In my humble judgment, those positions are all well chosen, and deserve to be permanently maintained. Without stopping to discuss objections founded upon the mere topography of the sites which have been selected for some of these forts, it appears to me that the geographical features of the country clearly indicate them as strongholds which cannot be left unoccupied with impunity. The three first named, being at the head of navigation, can scarcely ever be advanced, and will, therefore, it is believed, continue to form a part of what may be termed our *exterior* line of defence. The fourth, being now directly on the boundary of the State of Missouri, is destined soon to be superseded by a more advanced position up the Missouri river, and will thenceforth become an important member of the *interior* line which I shall suggest.

By the exterior line, I mean that which may be called for by great military and national considerations, and which must often be advanced into the Indian country far *beyond* our boundary; and by the interior line, that which is required for the special protection of the settlements, and which, in order to effect its object, must necessarily be *within* our boundary. It occurs to me that, under existing circumstances, no plan for the protection of the Western frontier can be effectual, which looks to a single line of defence to accomplish objects so different in their character; and that any attempt to unite those objects must necessarily defeat one of them, and possibly both. I would, therefore, retain Fort Snelling, Fort Leavenworth, (for the present,) Fort Gibson, and Fort Towson, as constituting the exterior line, with the addi-

tion of a post at the "Upper forks" of the Des Moines river, to fill up the wide gap in that part of the frontier. These forts occupy the great avenues leading into the Indian country, on which alone the advanced positions should be taken; and I do not perceive the necessity for any other intermediate post on this line. It would, however, in my opinion, be highly expedient to re-occupy the position at Council Bluffs, on the Missouri, at an early day, leaving Fort Leavenworth on the inner line of defence, as previously suggested.

2d. "The auxiliary stations for reserves and depots of supplies."

The auxiliary stations would constitute the interior line, as already indicated, and should be located with reference to the protection of the settlements, rather than to the military features of the frontier, or any very nice relation to the primary positions forming the advanced line. They would be *posts of refuge* for the inhabitants in times of alarm; and for that reason should be constructed on a large scale as to their area, with light defences, and ordinarily garrisoned by a small regular force just sufficient to protect them from seizure by the enemy. In times of need, the refugees themselves would carry reinforcements to the garrisons of those posts, whose chief object would be to form rallying points of safety and protection to the people when driven from their homes by the sudden incursions of the enemy.

The positions of these posts of refuge must necessarily be governed by the course and extent of the settlements. It would be impossible to indicate them, without more information on that point than is at present possessed here. All that can be said is, that they should be a little within our boundary line, so that the people may rally upon them conveniently. While the great positions forming the advanced line may readily be determined, upon military principles, by an inspection of the map; the minor ones, destined to form the interior line for the protection of the settlements, can be properly determined only by a careful inspection of the course and extent of those settlements, which will also determine the number of those posts. I should think, however, that two between the Red and Arkansas rivers, four between the Arkansas and the Missouri, and two between the Missouri and the Mississippi, would be quite sufficient in the present state of our settlements.

The depots for supplies cannot be exactly indicated until this interior line of posts shall have been established. They have a necessary connexion with, and dependence on, each other. The principal ones must, of course, be on the great rivers which penetrate the frontier, and considerably within the line of posts; so that roads may be opened, diverging from the depots, in the direction of the several posts which are dependent upon them. Both the Arkansas and Missouri rivers are very eligibly situated for this purpose. They flow through the centre of their respective sections of the frontier, and the line of posts will necessarily extend across them nearly at right angles. The Red river, the Osage, and the Des Moines, will also afford eligible sites for depots, by which the land transportation may be reduced, and the communications facilitated. Assuming that the posts will be located some eight or ten miles within our boundary line, the following places would seem to stand in a proper relation to them, for depots of supplies, namely: Fulton, on Red river; Morrison's bluff, on the Arkansas; the junction of the Osage with Grand river; and Lexington, on the Missouri.

The stations for the reserves may be indicated with more precision. I should, however, deem but one reserve necessary. There is no equal extent of our frontier, that I am acquainted with, which can be so

readily reinforced from a single position. Jefferson barracks, near St. Louis, is, in my humble judgment above all other places, the station for the corps of reserve. The line of the frontier, especially if it be extended to include Council Bluffs, describes an arc of a circle, whose chord would pass nearly through that point. From its central position, and its proximity to the mouths of the great rivers leading to the frontier, reinforcements may, by means of steam transports, be thrown with great rapidity and nearly equal facility, up the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi, as circumstances shall require. A reserve posted there would, in fact, be an available force for the whole line of the frontier; and it would, I think, be difficult to find a more eligible position. It might, however, be a just precaution, as the Arkansas river is not navigable at all seasons of the year, to station a minor reserve at some position on that river, above Little Rock.

3d. "The routes of communication between the several stations on the frontier, and from these to the depots in the interior."

Nothing is more important, in a military view, than the communications from the posts on the frontier to the depots in the interior; but those *between* the several stations on the line of the frontier are not, in my opinion, entitled to the consequence which has been ascribed to them. The great "military road," as it is called, now in progress from the Upper Mississippi to Red river, running beyond our boundary line, through the Indian country, and intended to connect our frontier posts with each other, originated, I think, in a very erroneous estimate of its importance for purposes of defence. As a route of communication, it violates a fundamental principle of military science. The lines of communication should be diverging or *perpendicular* to the frontier, not *parallel* with it. The resources of an army are always presumed to be in its rear, from whence it can draw its supplies and reinforcements, under cover of its own protection, and by lines of communication, which are secured from interruption by the enemy. It is clear that no army can maintain its position long, under any other circumstances. Roads between the posts on the frontier might be found convenient for occasional passing and repassing, in time of peace; but as routes of communication, they would be wholly useless in time of war. Exposed, as they would be, to constant interruption by the enemy, it is evident that nothing short of a force competent to take the field for offensive operations could expect to march upon them with safety.

But I do not perceive the necessity of keeping open these communications between the posts on the line of the frontier, at so much hazard. It could only result from the error of making posts occupying a very extended front dependent on each other for support, which would be inverting a plain military principle.

If reinforcements are required, they should be drawn from a corps of reserve posted in the rear, by means of rapid water conveyance, and by roads leading to the frontier, not by flank marches through the enemy's country, on a line parallel with the frontier. This would be not only violating a rule, but disregarding experience, and repeating a recent military blunder in another quarter, which ended in a mournful catastrophe.* Besides, it is well known that the whole region south of the Missouri river may be traversed by troops without the aid of artificial roads. In no other way can we ever expect to conduct a war there, since it is certain that the Indians will never meet us

* It was in the attempt to reinforce the army of General Clinch, by a march through the enemy's country, that Major Dade's command was sacrificed. If that devoted band had, by chance, reached its destination, it would have presented the anomaly of a small reinforcement coming in through the enemy's lines, upon the *front* of the main army, instead of its rear.

on our roads, except when they are strong enough to overwhelm our detachments. I therefore make no suggestion in relation to routes of communication *between* the posts on the frontier; but those which are to lead from these posts to the depots in the interior are entitled to the gravest consideration.

As the posts forming the exterior line of defence are all situated on navigable rivers, these, of course, will be the proper channels of communication from those posts to the great sources of supply in the interior: and with the abundant means of transportation which are at all times available in the West, there will be no difficulty in relation to supplies for any force that will ever be stationed on that line, especially if the flood season be availed of to replenish the stock at the posts on the streams liable to be much affected by droughts. It is the supply of the posts on the inner line which will occasion the chief difficulty, in consequence of the *land* transportation it will necessarily involve. I should not, however, regard this difficulty as very formidable. If the depots be established on the rivers, at or near the points indicated, with roads diverging from thence to the several posts, it would be an easy task to organize wagon trains to transport all the necessary supplies. The distance could not be more than midway between the depots, which in no case would exceed one hundred miles. The garrisons of those posts would be habitually small; and the country around them, being partially settled, would furnish forage for the trains, and a portion of the subsistence for the troops, which would lighten the operations by diminishing the transportation from the depots.

4th. "The minimum force which will be required to maintain peace among the several Indian tribes, and protect the border settlements."

As the solution of this question involves high military qualifications, and a more intimate acquaintance with the strength and disposition of the tribes along the frontier than I possess, I should not presume to attempt it, but for your call upon me, which I am not at liberty to disregard. I beg, therefore, that my opinions, humble as they are, may be taken with due allowance.

The obligations of the Government in reference to the western frontier are of a very peculiar character. It is first bound, by a common duty, to protect its own border settlements, extending along a line of one thousand miles, against the incursions of numerous savage tribes, separated from those settlements by mere imaginary lines; and it is next bound, by solemn treaty stipulations with such of those tribes as have emigrated to that frontier, "to protect them at their new residences against all interruptions or disturbances from any other tribes or nations of Indians, or from any other person or persons whatsoever."

If these obligations are to be scrupulously fulfilled in good faith, which would seem to be due to our character as a nation professing a paternal care over these people, a military force of thirty thousand men, on the western frontier, would scarcely be adequate to enable the government to discharge its duties to its own citizens, and redeem these pledges of protection to the Indians.

It is not my intention, however, to propose such a force. Political expediency, I presume, would not tolerate it, however it might be justified by military considerations. It is merely adverted to here in connexion with the heavy obligations which rest upon the Government, and which have probably been contracted, from time to time, without any very nice calculation of the means that would be necessary to a faithful discharge of them. I will, therefore, without enlarging upon this point, proceed to state the *minimum* force that is deemed necessary to give protection to the border settlements and assist in preserving peace among them and their Indian neighbors along the line of the frontier. These are great

and important objects of themselves, without superadding the yet more difficult task of protecting the emigrant tribes, whom our policy has placed beyond the frontier, from the wild and warlike Indians of the Far West.

I have already suggested a plan of defence, and indicated the positions to be permanently occupied. It remains to estimate the necessary force, and dispose of it in such way as will best effect the objects in view. Beginning, then, on the right flank of the frontier, I would assign to

Fort Snelling,	300 men.
Fort Crawford,	300 "
Upper forks of the Des Moines,	400 "
Fort Leavenworth,	1,200 "
Fort Gibson,	1,500 "
Fort Towson,	800 "
The 8 posts of refuge proposed,	800 "
The protection of the 4 depots,	200 "
Jefferson Barracks, as a corps of reserve,	1,000 "

Total, 7,000 men.

The garrisons assigned to the posts on the Upper Mississippi and the Des Moines would give but a very small disposable force for field service; but as the jealousy which exists at present among some of the tribes who inhabit that region, will prevent their uniting for hostile purposes against our settlements, it may be deemed sufficient.

Of the force assigned to Fort Leavenworth, 200 would be required for its permanent garrison; the remaining 1,000 would be disposable for that section of the frontier, and should be held ready to march in any direction that circumstances might require. At Fort Gibson, 300 would form the permanent garrison, leaving a disposable force of 1,200 that might take the field at a moment's warning, and march in the direction of the alarm. The permanent garrison at Fort Towson would be 200, and the disposable force at that point 600 men. The small garrisons on the interior line would furnish no disposable force for the field, being designed merely as guards of protection for the posts of refuge.

These active corps, though really very small in comparison with the extent of the frontier, and the numerous tribes which they may have to encounter, would, it is believed, if skilfully directed, hold the Indians in check, and afford protection to the border settlements, until the neighboring militia could be embodied, and reinforcements drawn from the reserve. Their positions, in advance of our boundary line, would enable them to move with great effect upon the flanks and rear of the enemy, should he menace the settlements. No people look better to the security of their retreat than Indians; they are not even brave when at all hemmed in. They would therefore be backward in making war on the settlements, with the certainty of being promptly attacked in their rear by our disposable columns.

And this forcibly illustrates the advantages of the exterior line of defence which has been suggested, as well as the absolute necessity of having a strong force at the advanced positions indicated, not as mere garrisons, but for active service in the field. In my humble judgment, posts on the frontier, without a disposable force that may be detached in rapid pursuit when occasions require, are of very little utility. It is impossible that they can inspire the neighboring Indian tribes with a respect for our power. Accustomed, themselves, to roam the boundless prairies free as air, they can neither dread nor respect a garrison whose weakness confines it to its own narrow defences.

5th. "The number of Indians who will be in the occupancy of the country west and north of the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, and the number of warriors they may collectively be able to bring into the field?"

On these points our information is necessarily limited and vague. I have not, myself, been able to make any researches in relation to the number, but have gathered the following results from a recent report of a high functionary, supposed to be intimately acquainted with all matters relating to Indian affairs. According to that report, the number of Indians who had actually emigrated and settled on our frontier, west of the Mississippi, up to February of last year, was 31,348. The indigenous tribes between them and the Rocky Mountains were estimated to number 150,341; making an Indian population of 181,689 then on our western border. In addition to these, there were computed to be 62,181 east of the Mississippi, who were still to emigrate; which will make an aggregate Indian population of 243,870 on the western frontier when the scheme of emigration shall have been accomplished.

The report referred to does not state the probable number of warriors these assembled nations may be abled to bring into the field. I have, therefore, endeavored to estimate it on data furnished by our own population. Our militia force, computed between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, stands to the whole number of inhabitants, in the ratio of 1 to 8.33; but the young men among the Indians take part in war much earlier than ours are required to bear arms, and the old men continue to act long after ours become exempt. I have therefore taken the male classes comprehended between the ages of fifteen and fifty, for the comparison. This gives a ratio of 1 to 4.23; but put it at 1 to 5, and the Indian tribes, which are, and soon will be on our western frontier, would furnish 48,774 warriors.

This inquiry, however, is rather curious than practically useful, since a combination so extensive as would be necessary to bring their whole force into the field is neither probable nor possible. But the emigrant tribes alone, located directly on our boundary line, without the aid of the powerful indigenous tribes, Camanches, Osages, and Pawnees; who are close at hand, would furnish, on the above data, twenty thousand warriors, one-half of whom are probably armed with rifles provided by our bounty. If even such a combination among the emigrant tribes as would be necessary to bring their united force into the field against us were deemed probable, instead of an army of 7,000 men, as I have estimated as the minimum force to guard and protect the Western frontier, twice or thrice that number might reasonably be required. But it will always be in our power to control a portion of these tribes, and make them auxiliaries in our cause. Still the savage force that might readily be arrayed against us on that frontier is sufficient to awaken our deep solicitude, and call for increased means of defence.

6th and last. "What progress has been made in the location of the military road?"

The commissioners to whom that duty was assigned were prevented by causes beyond their control, from entering upon the examination of the frontier, until the beginning of September last, when they commenced the survey of the route from the Missouri to Red river. They are still engaged on it, and will, it is believed, complete the location of that section of the road during the present season. Nothing has been done on the section lying between the Missouri river and the Mississippi, in consequence of the undefined state of the boundary lines of Missouri and the Wisconsin Territory, to which the road is intended to conform. Entertaining the opinions I do, however, in relation to this road, I do not think the delay that has occurred in its survey and location is to be regretted, as it will afford an opportunity of reviewing the subject, in connexion with a general plan of defence.

In conclusion, I beg to observe that, after all, the great element in an efficient plan of defence for the Western frontier consists of men. Fixed positions

have far less influence in Indian warfare than in that of civilized nations. They are valuable auxiliaries as points of rest and outfit for the active corps; but it is on these the chief reliance must be placed for the protection of the border settlements.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully, your obd't serv't,

T. CROSS,
Acting Quartermaster General.

The Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, Nov. 22, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the extract from the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 11th ultimo, respecting "the number of Indians who will be in the occupancy of the country west and north of the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, and the number of warriors they may collectively be able to bring into the field," which you have referred to this office for a report; and, in obedience to your directions, beg leave to state that, from the best information I can procure, and after a comparison of the views of gentlemen well acquainted with the Indians of the west and northwest, I have arrived at the conclusion that the number of Indians on the frontier in question will, when the tribes now east of the Mississippi shall have been placed to the west of that river, in fulfilment of the settled policy of the Government, be about 332,000; and that the number of warriors they may, collectively, be able to bring into the field, will be about 66,000, or about one out of five of the whole number.

For particulars, I respectfully refer you to the statement herewith laid before you, which is believed to be as nearly complete and accurate as circumstances will permit.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner.*

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

Statement showing the number of Indians now east of the Mississippi; of those that have emigrated from the east to the west of that river; and those within striking distance of the western frontier.

I.—NAME AND NUMBER OF THE TRIBES NOW EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

1.—*Under treaty stipulations to remove west of the Mississippi.*

Winnebagoes,	4,500
Ottawas of Ohio,	100
Pottawatamies of Indiana,	2,950
Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies,	1,500
Cherokees,	14,000
Creeks,	1,000
Chickasaws,	1,000
Seminoles,	5,000
Appalachicolas,	400
Ottawas and Chippewas in the peninsula of Michigan,	6,500
	36,950

2.—*Not under treaty stipulations to remove.*

New York Indians,	4,176
Wyandots,	575
Miamies,	1,100
Menomonies,	4,000
Ottawas and Chippewas of the lakes,	2,564
	12,415
	49,365

II.—NUMBER OF INDIANS WHO HAVE EMIGRATED FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Chickasaws	549	Shawnees,	1,272
Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawatomies,	2,191	Ottawas,	374
Choctaws,	15,000	Weas,	222
Quapaws,	476	Piankeshaws,	162
Creeks,	20,437	Peorias and Kaskias,	132
Seminoles,	407	Pottawatamies of Indiana,	53
Appalachicolas,	265	Senecas,	251
Cherokees,	7,911	Senecas & Shawnees,	211
Kickapoos,	588		
Delaware,	826		
		Total,	51,327

III.—NUMBER OF THE INDIGENOUS TRIBES WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

Sioux,	21,600	Minatarees,	2,000
Iowas,	1,500	Pagans,	30,000
Sacs,	4,800	Assinaboons,	15,000
Foxes,	1,600	Appaches,	20,280
Sacs of Missouri,	500	Crees,	3,000
Osages,	5,120	Arrepaheas,	3,000
Kansas,	1,606	Gros-Ventres,	16,800
Omahas,	1,600	Eutaws,	19,000
Ottoes and Missourias,	1,000	Crows,	7,200
Pawnees,	12,500	Caddoies,	2,000
Camanches,	19,200	Poncas,	900
Kioways,	1,800	Arikarees,	2,750
Mandans,	3,200	Cheyennes,	3,200
Quapaws,	450	Blackfeet,	30,000
		Total,	231,806

RECAPITULATION.

Number of Indians now east of the Mississippi,	49,365
Number of Indians who have emigrated from east to west side,	51,327
Number of Indigenous tribes,	231,806
Aggregate,	332,498

Estimated number of warriors.

Whole number of Indians,	332,498
Assuming that every fifth one may be considered a warrior, (and this is believed to be a reasonable supposition,) the number of warriors will be	66,499

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office of Indian Affairs, Nov. 22, 1837.

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner.*

MISCELLANY.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

NATIONAL DEFENCE.—The bill reported to the Senate on the 9th inst. by the Committee on Military Affairs, provides for an addition of 62 non-commissioned officers and privates to each company of artillery, and 63 to each company of infantry. As there are 4 regiments of artillery, each comprising 9 companies—and 7 regiments of infantry, each comprising 10 companies—it follows that the number of men to be added to the artillery, should this bill pass, will be 2,240, and the infantry 4,410. Total, 6,650. The bill also provides for some addition to the Ordnance Corps, Corps of Engineers, Quartermaster's Department, &c. The whole regular force of the United States on the 30th November last, according to the official returns, including officers of all grades, was 7,958. Of this number, 7,310 were non-commissioned officers and privates. The effect of the new bill would therefore be, to increase the Army to between 14,000 and 15,000 men; a force very small indeed, when it is considered that we

have an inland frontier of 3,000 or 4,000 miles, and a sea coast of 2,000 or 3,000 more. For ourselves, we should like to see a still larger increase of the regular force. Twenty thousand men is, in our opinion, as small an army as can possibly answer our necessities; and, taking a series of years together, we have not a doubt that such a force would be less expensive to the country, than the penny-wise system hitherto in operation. Had our army, at the breaking out of the Florida war, comprised 20,000 men, or even 10,000, that war would never have taken place. Thus many millions of dollars would have been saved to the country, many valuable lives spared, and a brave tribe of Indians preserved from almost total extinction.

We must bear in mind, that the many thousand Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminoles, and other Indians, who have been, or will be, removed to the far west, will cherish there a lurking spirit of hostility against the people who have injured them, which ever and anon may break out into open warfare. A general war waged by the Indians, who will soon be concentrated on our western frontier, would be almost as formidable as a war with Great Britain; and it is an occurrence not unlikely to happen. Furthermore, should we at any time get into a war with Great Britain, we may pretty safely calculate that we shall have to fight these Indians into the bargain. Even a brush with Mexico would expose us to an Indian war. There is not, at this moment, a single portion of our vast frontier, whether inland or maritime, that does not require attention. On the south we have the Seminoles to contend with; on the S. W. is Mexico, with which we have unsettled relations; on the West, there are hordes of wild Indians; on the North, there is the Canada insurrection and its consequences; on the N. East the disputed boundary; and in proportion as any or all of these things expose us to a war with Great Britain, in the same proportion will our whole sea-coast be liable to invasion.

We are free to say that at present we have little fear of a war with Great Britain; because we are certain that both *Governments* are honestly desirous of avoiding such a calamity, and because, also, we confide in the good sense of our *people* to put down the spirit of semi-hostility which has sprung up on the frontier, in connexion with the attempted revolution in Canada. Nevertheless, the suddenness with which we have been brought to contemplate such an event as more than possible, must convince us of the utter folly and madness of leaving ourselves without protection against such contingencies. We ought at least to have spare men enough to fire a salute, on the entrance of a foreign ship of war into the principal port in the Union; which is more than we had when a French Government ship arrived here soon after the adjustment of our late difficulty with that country; we ought also to be able to spare a few men for exposed points, such as the frontier of Maine has been for the last two years, and as other portions of our northern frontier now are; and, finally, we ought to have a force able to co-operate with the Navy in any enterprise which might result from a war with Mexico, or any other Power.

The navy requires looking after. We have not, of late, kept pace, in this department of service, with the vast improvements which have taken place in the navies of England, France, and Russia. Far from it. While they have been building steam-ships of great power and speed, and adopting every other improvement which invention could suggest or money procure, we have been resting on our oars, satisfied with past achievements, and preparing for a tremendous drubbing, whenever it shall fall to our lot to get into a war with any one of the great naval powers. We speak this in sorrow and not in anger. The navy is our pride and glory. It has accomplished wonders, and can do it again, if only we

are not caught napping. Let us understand, that the most annoying part of naval warfare is hereafter to be conducted by steam. Steam-vessels will sweep off merchantmen, as a matter of course, wherever they are to be found; they will visit shoal waters, harbors, creeks, &c., putting villages under contribution, or, perhaps, burning them; and in naval engagements of a higher order, when sail-vessels are motionless for want of wind, steamboats will be here and there and every where. Is our Navy Department dreaming? are Congress dreaming? or, do they intend, whenever a war shall come upon us, to see the country, for want of preparation, subjected to another series of adverses, like that which marked the commencement of the war of 1812.

In connection with this subject, we invite the attention of our readers to a report of the Secretary of War, submitted to the Senate on the 10th inst. in compliance with a resolution of that body of 14th October last, requesting him to propose "a plan for the defence of the north and eastern frontiers of the United States." Gen. Scott, in a paper appended to the report, but which we cannot find room for at present, expresses his opinion [this is under date of Nov. 19, 1836, before the explosion in Canada,] that "five regiments of artillery, and three of infantry, is the *minimum* force required for the protection of the Northern and Eastern frontiers of the United States, against sudden, but at all times very possible, insults and aggression on the part of unexpected enemies, and to preserve the permanent posts from the gradual waste of time." Five regiments of artillery are one more than the present United States army contains.

THE LATE COL. THOMPSON, U. S. A.

From the Christian Intelligencer.

DIED, having fallen in the disastrous engagement with the Indians, on the 25th December last, at Charlotte Harbor, Col. THOMPSON, of the United States Army.

Col. ALEXANDER RAMSAY THOMPSON was the son of Alexander Thompson, of New York, who served with honor and reputation in the revolutionary war, as Captain of Artillery, and died in the service of the United States, at West Point, in the year 1809. His mother, Amelia De Hart, was a daughter of Dr. De Hart, of Elizabethtown, N. J.

He received a cadet's warrant, and entered the U. S. Military Academy, at the early age of 15. Before he completed his studies at that institution, the war of 1812 broke out, and he received a lieutenant's commission in the 6th Regiment of Infantry; and before the termination of that struggle, he was appointed to a captaincy in the same corps.

At the close of the war he was retained in the service; and at the re-organization of the army on the peace establishment, in 1815, he was appointed 1st Capt of Light Infantry in the second regiment, under the command of Col. Hugh Brady, stationed at Sackett's Harbor. After serving in that regiment for several years, and being its instructor in tactics, and in all the detail duties of service, he was breveted for long service, in 1824, to a majority. In 1833, he was promoted to the 6th regiment of infantry, under command of Gen. Atkinson, and ordered to Fort Leavenworth, on the Upper Missouri, and finally received his promotion as Lieut. Colonel in that regiment.

Col. Thompson was at the siege of Plattsburgh, and has served at Fort Niagara and Sackett's Harbor. He was at the establishment of Fort Brady, Sault de St. Marie, and superintended the erection of that work; and in the discharge of his duties there, received an injury in his knee joint, from which he never entirely recovered. He was at Green Bay, on Lake Michigan; commanded at Mackinac, and rebuilt that post; and afterwards at Fort Gratiot, which he also replanned and rebuilt. From this post he crossed, with his

command, the country, via Chicago to the Mississippi, during the season of the cholera, and the Black Hawk war, in 1832, and was present at the bringing in of that noted chief. He suffered greatly from the effects of the fatigue to which he was subject in this march. He served also at Fort Leavenworth, on the Upper Missouri; at Jefferson Barracks, on the Mississippi; Newport, Kentucky; at the Sabine, on the border of Mexico; and Fort Jesup, Louisiana; from whence he was ordered to Florida, where, after passing a year of severe labor, his valuable life has been yielded up to his country: having been shot down amidst his brave companions, in the front of battle, and in the execution of his professional duties.

Col. Thompson was in the prime of life, being forty-five years of age. His constant aim was to render himself useful, and adorn the profession which he held. He was a practical soldier, and took every pains to instruct his men in their immediate duties. Being trained to arms from his youth, he was devoted to the Government of his country: whilst he required his men to be prompt, he also aided and facilitated them in their duties. He was not only a disciplinarian officer, but the soldier's friend. He studied as far as practicable, their comforts, provided for their wants; was ever devising suitable employments for their leisure time, and means for the improvement of their habits; they would appeal to him in their difficulties, and submit cheerfully to his decisions; they respected him as an officer, and loved him as a man. He required subordination, but he scrupulously respected their rights. He endeavored to present to the junior officers, in his own conduct, a pattern worthy of their imitation. He strove to obtain by merit their regards, and he singularly succeeded. Few men have rendered themselves more universally endeared.

But not only was Col. Thompson an intelligent, estimable, and patriotic citizen, and a gallant and accomplished officer: that which gives to his character its highest worth, and now affords a solace to the hearts which deeply mourn his departure, is, that he was a soldier of the cross—a Christian, sincere, exemplary, and devoted: in his whole deportment manifesting habitually, the softening and purifying influence of the religion that is from above.

In his religious character, there was nothing equivocal. After much, and careful consideration, he greatly awakened feeling and fervent prayer: in March, 1834, he united himself with the Collegiate Church in this city. His deep humility, his docility, the overpowering sense of gratitude to that Being who had preserved him in so many perils, whilst estranged from his service, and at last had called him to the fellowship of his grace, and the hope of glory, manifested on that occasion, left an impression on the minds of those with whom he most intimately communed, not to be forgotten.

The energy of Col. Thompson's character was soon seen to pervade his religion. What he did, he did heartily. He loved the Saviour, his ordinances, and his church. As long as he was permitted to remain in Christian society, no opportunity or means of spiritual improvement and growth in grace was neglected. Never was his place vacant in the sanctuary, or the prayer meeting.

Called, in the autumn of 1834, by his professional duties to our remote frontier, accompanied by his wife, long the companion alike of his joys and his toils, and perils, and long the active, energetic, and devoted Christian, he left us, alas! to return no more. But he had found that by which he was prepared for all events. He carried with him a new influence; and separated, as he has been ever since, almost entirely from all the public means of grace, he has uniformly adorned the doctrines of God his Saviour. His letters all breathe the spirit of ardent piety, and his anxious longings for the communion of God's house. Constantly have his liberal remittances been received, for the poor of the church, and for sustaining her in-

stitutions. To the utmost of his power, moreover, has he acted the part of a missionary; exerting his whole influence and authority on the side of Christ and holiness; distributing bibles and tracts; promoting prayer; and, many a time has he been found by the couch of the sick, and dying, and friendless soldier, ministering not only to his temporal comfort, but imparting the counsels of heaven, and kneeling before the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, supplicating for him mercy from on high.

But, he is gone! after a life of excited action, he sighed for repose; and he has entered into rest. He has ceased from his toils, and his works do follow him. In his departure, the army has lost one of its truest ornaments,—society, a most valued citizen, and the church a most beloved esteemed and useful member; and, especially, is the heart of the cherished companion of his life stricken. Seldom have we known a couple, in spirit and in life, more entirely adapted to each other. It is a merciful arrangement of Providence, that when Col. Thompson received his orders to march for Florida, Mrs. Thompson returned to this, her native city, and is now, in the hour of her anguish, surrounded by the sympathies of the dearest friends that remain to her on earth. She sorrows, but "not as those who have no hope," not as insensible of the mercies which her Heavenly Father mingles in her cup.

THE TREASURES OF THE OCEAN.—The immense amount of treasure, and other memorials of man, which lie buried in the ocean, is a curious subject of reflection. Who can say that to future ages the memory of the nations now in the world may not be preserved solely by these relics? But few persons have any idea of the number of vessels, with valuable cargoes, which have been submerged. Lyell, in his "Principles of Geology," says that during the late wars between England and France thirty-two English ships-of-the-line went to the bottom in twenty-two years, besides seven fifty-gun-ships, eighty-six frigates, and a multitude of smaller vessels. The navies of the other European powers, France, Holland, Spain and Denmark, were almost annihilated during the same period, so that the aggregate of their losses must have exceeded that of Great Britain. In every one of these ships were batteries of cannon, constructed of every species of iron or brass, whereof a great number had the dates and places of their manufactories inscribed upon them in letters cast in metal. In each, there were coins of copper, silver, and often many of gold, capable of serving as historical monuments: in each were an infinite variety of instruments of the arts of war and peace: many formed of materials such as glass and earthenware, capable of lasting for indefinite ages, when once removed from the mechanical action of the waves, and buried under a mass of matter which may exclude the corroding action of sea water. Upon this subject, Lyell, in his "Principles of Geology," remarks:

"But let it not be imagined that the fury of war is more conducive than the peaceful spirit of commercial enterprise to the accumulation of wrecked vessels in the bed of the sea. From the examination of Lloyd's Lists from the year 1793 to the commencement of 1829, Captain W. H. Smyth ascertained that the number of British vessels alone, lost during that period, amounted, on an average, to no less than one and a half daily; an extent of loss which would have hardly been anticipated, although we learn from Moreau's tables, that the number of merchant vessels employed at one time in the navigation of England and Scotland, amounted to about twenty thousand, having, one with another, a mean burthen of 120 tons. My friend, Mr. J. L. Prevost, also informs me that, on inspecting Lloyd's Lists for the years 1829, 1830, and 1831, he finds that no less than 1953 vessels were lost in those three years, their average ton-

nage being about 150 tons, or, in all, nearly 300,000 tons, being at the enormous rate of 100,000 tons annually, of the merchant vessels of one nation only. This increased loss arises, I presume, from increased activity in commerce.

"Out of 551 ships of the royal navy, lost to the country during the period above mentioned, only 160 were taken or destroyed by the enemy, the rest having either stranded, or foundered, or having been burnt by accident: a striking proof that the dangers of our naval warfare however great, may be far exceeded by the storm, the shoal, the lea-shore, and all the other perils of the deep."

"Millions of silver dollars and other coins have been sometimes submerged in a single ship, and on these, when they happened to be enveloped in a matrix capable of protecting them from chemical changes, much information of historical interest will remain inscribed, and endure for periods as indefinite as have the delicate markings of zoophytes or lapidified plants in some of the ancient secondary rocks. In almost every large ship, moreover, there are some precious stones set in seals, and other articles of use and ornament, composed of the hardest substances in nature, on which, letters and various images are carved—engravings which they may retain when included in subaqueous strata, as long as crystal preserves its natural form."

"It was therefore, a splendid boast, that the deeds of the English chivalry at Agincourt made Henry's chronicle

As rich with praise
As is the ooze and bottom of the deep,
With sunken wrecks and sunless treasures.'

For it is probable that a greater number of monuments of the skill and industry of man will, in the course of ages, be collected together in the bed of the ocean, than will be seen, at any other time, on the surface of the continent."

From the London Nautical Magazine for December.
PACIFIC ISLANDS.

H. M. S. ACTEON, VALPARAISO, Feb. 4. 1837.

MR. EDITOR: Having just returned from a cruise among the South Sea Islands, I have much pleasure in affording a small portion of information for your useful Magazine; the positions given are all from actual observation, by yours, &c.,

G. BIDDLECOMBE, Master R. N.

Resolution Bay, Island of St. Christina, (Marquesas,) watering-place, 9 deg. 55 min. 30 sec. S. Longitude; 4 h. 28 min. 46 sec. W. of Valparaiso, by Chros. Lunars 138 deg. 50 min. 45 sec. W. of Greenwich. Variation, 3 deg. 45 min. E.

The whole of the Marquesas are laid down in the charts about fifteen miles west of their true position.

Fort at Woahoo, lat. 21 deg. 18 min. 10 sec. N. Long. 158 deg. 0 min. 40 sec. W. of Greenwich. Variation, 10 deg. 42 min. E.

Flint's Island, lat. 11 deg. 20 min. 30 sec. S. 151 deg. 53 min. 30 sec. W. Variation, 4 deg. 57 min. E.

Maurice Island, lat. 16 deg. 26 min. 39 sec. S. 152 deg. 11 min. 48 sec. W. Variation, 6 deg. 55 min. E.

Bolabola Island, lat. (north end,) 16 deg. 27 min. S. 151 deg. 49 min. W.

Tubai Island, (north end,) lat. 16 deg. 11 min. 26 sec. S. 151 deg. 52 min. 45 sec. W.

Otaha Island, (north end,) lat. 16 deg. 33 min. S. Long. (west extreme,) 151 deg. 38 min. 10 sec. W.

Ulietea Island, (south end,) lat. 16 deg. 55 min. S. Long. (west extreme,) 151 deg. 25 min. W.

Huahide Island, (north end,) lat. 16 deg. 41 min. S. Long. (west extreme,) 151 deg. 5 min. 47 sec. W.

Sir Charles Saunders' Island, (its peak,) lat. 17 deg. 28 min. 40 sec. S. Long. 150 deg. 43 min. 15 sec. W.

Eimeo Island, (north end,) lat. 17 deg. 26 min. 39 sec. S. Long. (centre,) 149 deg. 56 min. W.

Thethuroa Island, (centre,) lat. 17 deg. 5 min. S. Long. 149 deg. 34 min. W.

St. Paul's Island, (west point,) lat. 19 deg. 46 min. S. Long. 145 deg. 5 min. W. East point, lat. 19 deg. 50 min. S. Long. 144 deg. 52 min. W.

Margaret Island, lat. 20 deg. 26 min. S. Long. (east end,) 143 deg. 35 min. W.; (west end,) 143 deg. 35 min. W.

Duke of Gloucester's Island, (eastern island,) lat. 20 deg. 42 min. S. Long. 142 deg. 54 min. W. Western Island, 20 deg. 40 min. S. Long. 143 deg. 11 min. 20 sec. W.

Aetœon's Group, discovered on the 3d Jan., 1837. Three Islands: Melbourne Island, S. 1st, lat. 21 deg. 28 min. 30 sec. S. and longitude 136 deg. 26 min. 46 sec. W. Minto Island, its centre, in lat. 21 deg. 23 min. S.: Long. 136 deg. 32 min. W. And Bedford Island, its N. W. point, in lat. 21 deg. 18 min. 30 sec. S. and long. 136 deg. 37 min. 46 sec. W.

Pitcairn's Island, latitude of its northern part, 25 deg. 3 min. S. and longitude of the village by chro. 130 deg. 9 min. 26 sec. W.

I insert this information from Mr. T. Ebrill, the master of a merchant vessel trading among the Islands.

There is an island called, by the natives, Raraka, in latitude 15 deg. 52 min. S. Long. 144 deg. 47 min. W., about four miles in extent.

Three low islands in lat. 16 deg. 45 min. S., and long. 144 deg. 15 min. W.

One island in lat. 16 deg. 5 min. S., and long. 139 deg. 41 min. W.; very low.

An island he landed on, and named it Maria Island, in lat. 22 deg. 5 min. S., and 136 deg. W.; about four miles extent.

A shoal, level with the water's edge, one hundred yards in extent, lies ninety miles E. N. E. of Gambia Island.

A Monsieur Morone reports Bird Island in lat. 23 deg. 7 min. S. Long. 137 deg. 17 min. W.; it is not in that position, as we were precisely on the spot at 4 P. M., and nothing seen; yet it may be in that latitude.

He reports Michael Group, a group of seven low islands, in lat. 31 deg. 27 min. S. Long. 130 deg. 15 sec. to 130 deg. 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. W.

MORSE'S ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH—It is with some degree of pride, that it falls to our lot first to announce the complete success of this wonderful piece of mechanism; and no place could have been found more suitable to pursue the course of experiments necessary to perfecting the detail of machinery, than the Speedwell works. Replete as they are with every convenience, Professor Morse quietly pursued the great object, and has finally succeeded. Others may have suggested the possibility of conveying intelligence by electricity, but this is the first instance of its actual transmission and permanent accord.

The telegraph consists of four parts:

1st. The Battery—A Cruikshank's galvanic trough of 60 pair of plates, seven by eight-and-a-half inches each. 2d. The Portrule—An instrument which regulates the motion on the rule. The rule answers to the stick of the printers, and in it the type representing the numbers to be transmitted are passed beneath the lever which closes and breaks the circuit. 3d. The Register—An instrument which receives and accords the numbers sent by the Portrule from any distant station. 4th. A Dictionary—containing a complete vocabulary of all the words in the English language, regularly numbered.

The communication which we saw made through a distance of two miles, was the following sentence: "Rail Road Cars just arrived—345 passengers."—These words were put into numbers from the dictionary; the numbers were set up in the telegraph-type in about the same time ordinarily occupied in setting up the same in a printing office. They were then all

passed complete by the Portrule in about half a minute,* each stroke of the Portrule at one extremity marking on the register at the other, a distance of two miles, instantaneously. We watched the spark at one end and the mark of the pencil at the other, and they were as simultaneous as if the lever itself had struck the mark. The marks or numbers were easily legible, and by means of the dictionary were resolved again into words.

The superiority of this telegraph over all hitherto invented is, that day or night, in clear or in foggy weather, intelligence can be sent instantaneously. The advantage to the Government and the country of such a means of communication, are incalculable.—*Morristown Jerseyman.*

[The cost per mile for constructing an electric telegraph, is estimated at about \$600]

*The first stroke rang an alarm on the bell, and put in motion the machine to receive the intelligence.

THE CHEVALIER BAYARD.—In the war carried on by LOUIS XII., of France, against the Venitians, the town of Brescia, taken by storm, and abandoned to the soldiers, suffered for seven days all the distresses of cruelty and avarice. No house escaped but the one where Chevalier Bayard was lodged. At his entrance, the mistress, a woman of figure, fell at his feet, and deeply sobbing, said. "Oh! my lord, save my life; save the honor of my daughters." "Take courage, madam," said the chevalier; "your life and their honor shall be secure while I have life." The two young ladies, brought from their hiding place, were presented to him; and the family, thus reunited, bestowed their whole attention on their delivery. A dangerous wound he had received, gave them opportunity to express their zeal; they employed a notable surgeon: they attended him by turn, day and night, and when he could bear to be amused, they entertained him with concerts of music. Upon the day fixed for his departure, the mother said to him—"To your goodness, my lord, we owe our lives, and to you all that we have belong by right of war; but we hope from your signal benevolence that this slight tribute will content you," (placing upon the table an iron coffer full of money.) "What is the sum?" said the chevalier. "My lord," answered she trembling, "no more than two thousand five hundred ducats, all that we have; but, if more be necessary, we will try our friends." "Madam," said he, "I never shall forget your kindness, more precious in my eyes than a hundred thousand ducats. Take back your money, and depend always on me." "My good lord, you kill me, to refuse this small sum: take it only as a mark of your friendship to our family." "Well said he, "since it will oblige you, I take the money; but give me the satisfaction of bidding adieu to your amiable daughters." They came to him with looks of regard and affection. 'Ladies,' said he, "the impression you have made on my heart will never wear out. What return to make I know not, for men of my profession are seldom opulent: but here are two thousand five hundred ducats, of which the generosity of your mother has given me the disposal. Accept them as a marriage present: and may your happiness in marriage be equal to your merit." "Flower of chivalry!" cried the mother, "may the God who suffered death for us, reward you here and hereafter."

The steamboats *Barcelona* and *Robert Fulton*, have been chartered at Buffalo, for Government service. Lieut. Homans, of the navy, has been appointed to the naval command on the lakes, and hoisted his flag on the former. It is said that Capt. Champlin, also of the navy, will take charge of the latter. The *Barcelona* left Buffalo on Saturday; destination unknown.—*Albany Daily Advertiser.*

WASHINGTON CITY:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1838.

The marine intelligence, during the past month, bears ample testimony to the importance of the service in which the revenue cutters have been employed, on the coast, relieving inward bound vessels, and to the zeal and activity of their officers.

Among other instances, we notice that the brig Crusader, Capt. Parks, from Savanilla, has been towed into N. York by the U. S. revenue schooner Washington, H. DONALD HUNTER, Esq., commanding. The brig had been at anchor off Sandy Hook, on Friday the 19th ult. During the gale of that night, she parted both cables, and, with the loss of anchors, and sails split, was driven to sea. She was fallen in with by the cutter, 20 miles south of the Highlands, and towed into New York on the morning of the 20th ultimo.

EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—It is now reported that the expedition is to go out as soon as practicable, under the command of Captain F. H. GREGORY, and that it is to be composed of the sloops Vincennes and Peacock, the ship Relief, and schooner Active.

These vessels are considered preferable to any others in the service, as they are built up solid.

There is no officer in the navy better qualified for such a command than Capt. Gregory, and we hope he will be despatched without delay. We do not learn how the scientific corps are to be disposed of, or whether they are to compose a part of the new expedition.

It is understood that Commander GREGORY has been nominated to the Senate for promotion to the rank of Captain; and it is believed that his acceptance of the command of the exploring squadron will depend upon the result of this nomination.

A fire was discovered early on Friday morning last, in the building occupied by a branch of the Topographical Engineers, at the corner of G and 18th streets. It originated in the room used by C. N. HAGNER, Esqr., and is supposed to have been caused by a defect in the chimney. The fire was soon extinguished, and did little injury except to the room in which it originated. The field notes of Mr. HAGNER's last summer's work, and several maps and papers, were destroyed.

The U. S. ship Relief, Lieut. Comdt. Dornin, sailed from New York on Sunday last, to cruise between Sandy Hook and the Capes of Virginia. The schooner Active, Lieut. Comdt. Woolsey, is bound on the same cruise, but did not get out. The brig Consort, Lieut. Comdt. Glynn, bound on a cruise from Nantucket to Halifax, was to have sailed on Monday. These vessels are intended to aid inward bound vessels that may stand in need of it.

—A letter addressed to the editor of this paper and postmarked "Tampa, Jan. 7," has been refused at the Post Office here, in consequence of the non-payment of postage—\$1.62 cts.

A correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says that the Rev. Mr. POOLE, of that city, who has, for a long time past, prosecuted with much attention, a series of experiments on magnetic attractions, has discovered a new and hitherto wholly unnoticed phenomenon in the dip needle, (which he has much improved) and he shows, moreover, a practical application of that phenomenon which no one previously supposed possible—the **DISCOVERY OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE** by the action of his instrument, without the aid of celestial observations. This will, he says, appear visionary to many, but several gentlemen, who have examined the instrument, believe it to be infallible.

In the board of Aldermen of the city of New York, at its sitting on Monday evening, 22d ult., a message from the Mayor was read, calling the attention of the Board to the project of forming a dry dock for the naval station, without the bounds of the city. Ald. Paterson moved that the whole matter be referred to a select joint committee, which being assented to, Ald. Paterson, Hoxie, and Ingraham were appointed.

THE LATE COL. THOMPSON.—We have copied from the Christian Intelligencer, published at New York, a short biographical notice of this lamented and distinguished officer; and have been favored with the subjoined extracts from a letter, written by an officer of the army in Florida, giving a detailed account of the battle of Okee-chubbee on the 25th December. The particulars of the death of this heroic officer, from one who was an eye-witness of his conduct during the action, and whose mind was fresh from the scenes he has described, possess a peculiar but painful interest; and will be duly appreciated by all who value the glory of our country and the reputation of her devoted sons. The death of Col. THOMPSON has covered his name with immortal honor, and placed it among the heroes and patriots who live in the grateful recollection of their country.

Although it had not been our intention, in introducing these extracts, to say more than what related particularly to Col. Thompson, yet we cannot lose the opportunity of expressing our admiration of the persevering zeal and undaunted courage of the Florida army; in traversing unexplored tracts for many miles, surrounded by the dangers of savage warfare, in a country rendered almost impenetrable by the wide spread morasses and everglades, the dense hammocks and fastnesses that cover its surface, and form the natural defences of these bold and daring sons of the forest. All these toils and hardships have been overcome. The enemy has been pursued and driven from his strong holds, though with the loss of many valuable officers. And in advertizing to the service in Florida we owe it to justice to say, that our gallant officers and men have shown, from the commencement of operations in that quarter, the greatest zeal and devotion to their profession, amid the most trying scenes, in which they have ever been engaged; while the loss of life incontestably proves how nobly the character and reputation of the service have been sustained.

[EXTRACT.]

"**FORT BROOKE, TAMPA BAY,**
January 5, 1838.

"I fear that long ere this melancholy letter reaches you, you may have heard through the public papers the unhappy results of the battle of *Okee-chubbee*.

"The 6th Regiment was gallantly led on by Col. Thompson. They sustained the whole fire of the Indians for some time before the 4th and 1st could come to their support. They suffered severely, both in killed and wounded. Col. Thompson had that morning, in a short and pithy address to his regiment, prepared them for the scenes of that day. He led them firmly on, and even after he had received two rifle balls in his breast, he still maintained that firm and decided manner so peculiar to him, and cautioned his men not to throw away their fire, and said to them, 'Keep steady men—charge the hammock—remember to what regiment you belong'; which were the last words he was heard to utter, and his men will never forget them. Still advancing, he received the third ball, which at once deprived him of life."

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 24, 1838.

DEAR SIR: A detachment of U. S. troops, one hundred and sixty strong, under the command of Col. WORTH, of the ordnance, has just reached this place. The object of the expedition is to take possession of all arms and munitions of war belonging to the assemblage in arms against the government of Canada. The following officers are on duty with the detachment:

Capt. Wright, 3d Infantry.

Lt. Talcott, 3d Artillery.

Lt. Lee, 3d Artillery.

Lt. Baker, 7th Infantry.

Lt. L. O'Brien, 3d Infantry.

Lt. Homans, Navy.

Lt. Ottinger, Revenue Service.

We have been politely furnished with the following extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, from an officer of the U. S. army, at Fort Brooke, under date of

"JANUARY 13, 1838.

"I have just returned from a tour of duty on the Suwannee and Withlacoochee, and have just heard of the fatal affair of the 25th of December, at Okee-chubbee lake.

"Col. THOMPSON was wounded in three places before he fell, either of which would have proved fatal. The first ball passed through the abdomen to the left; the second in the right breast; and the last, through the chin and neck, evidently shot from a tree. He fell in a sitting position and died instantly.

"VAN SWEARINGEN was shot in advance of his company, in the lower part of his neck, retired to the rear, raised both hands above his head, and fell flat upon his face, gave one groan, and was no more.

"BROOKE was shot through the heart, and died with a smile on his face.

"CENTER was shot through the head from a tree, and died instantly.

"Col. GENTRY, of Missouri, was shot through the body; the same ball passed through him and through his son's arm, and then into a tree. It was a musket ball.

"All these officers showed the greatest gallantry in

the fight. ANDREWS was severely wounded, and WALKER, of the 6th, was literally shot to pieces; four balls passed through him, and several others grazed him. He is fast recovering, however, and is as manly under his severe wounds as he was brave in receiving them. He is a promising officer.

"I have thus been particular in naming all these facts, as I know they will be interesting to you. It seems hard that so many brave spirits should fall in such an inglorious warfare.

"The lives of all the Indians would not be sufficient to revenge one of these officers."

Extract of a letter from an officer of the army, to his friend in this city, dated

"GAREY'S FERRY, Jan. 17, 1838.

"News has just reached us that Sam Jones was on an island, with about 800 men, and only accessible by one man at a time. Gen. Jesup is after him, and no doubt, by this time, is around him; it seems he intends making a stand there, and if so, I have every confidence the war will soon end.

"The boat has just arrived from Fort Mellon, and goes immediately to Charleston. I have written this off in a great hurry."

Commander W. MERVINE has been relieved at his own request from the command of the United States ship Natchez, now on the West India Station: and Commander B. PAGE ordered in his stead. This exchange will not take effect until the 1st April next.

OFFICIAL ARMY REGISTER FOR 1838.—A few extra copies have been printed, and are for sale at this office. Price 37 1-2 cents.

The NAVY REGISTER, for 1838, will be published in a few days, and may also be obtained at this office.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Jan. 24—Capt. H. Brewerton, Eng'r. Corps, Fuller's.
29—Col. J. G. Totten, do. Gadsby's.
31—Lieut. J. H. Miller, 4th art'y, Fuller's.

PASSENGERS.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24, per ship Monongahela, from Philadelphia, J. De Lancy Izard, U. S. N.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 22, per steam packet North Carolina, for Wilmington, Col. Totten, of the army.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24, per barque Magoulia, from Matanzas, Mid. W. Reid, of U. S. N.

COMMUNICATION.

THE ARMY—SEMINOLE WAR—6TH INFANTRY.

If the war now waging in the swamps and hammocks of Florida has, thus far, been distinguished only by the great and repeated demands upon the Treasury of the Government, exhausting it of its supplies, and tending even to the embarrassment of its more ordinary liabilities, it cannot fail, ere long, to open the eyes of the nation to the dreadful and deplorable loss of the best blood that ever flowed in the veins of man. It is advanced by one, who challenges the world to prove the contrary, that in this unfortunate war there have been examples of cool courage, undaunted bravery, and personal devotion to the honor of our country, which may find an equal, but which cannot be surpassed by the most noble performances of those heroes, who, by their valor

and bravery, have justly merited the honorable and distinctive title of their country's pride. The devoted band, who fell fighting at their posts under the gallant DADE, a sacrifice to the views of one who could listen only to the suggestions of his own timidity; the enviable death of the immortal IZARD, "who fell at the head of his corps, and, though mortally wounded, had the heroic presence of mind to order 'keep your positions, men, and lie close,' and, at a still later period, the gallantry and coolness with which the officers and men of the 4th and 6th Infantry, (deserted by those to whom they had reason to look for support,) marched forward to the attack, well knowing, from the position of the enemy, strongly favored by the face of the country, that at least half their number must be disabled, ere a hope could arise of revenging the deaths of their brave comrades, and of proving to the country that, in their hands, its honor could not be tarnished. These are a few of the many examples that could be cited as a proof, that if the war in Florida has not resulted as satisfactorily to the nation as was at first reasonably expected, it cannot be attributed, with any degree of justice, to the want of courage, energy, or ability, in those who constitute the bone and sinew of our small but ill-used army. There are those, it is true, who, comfortably seated by their fire-sides, surrounded by all that makes life desirable, can have little conception of the hardships and troubles of their fellow-man, whose daily duty consists in the wading of swamps, the construction of roads, the building of bridges, and all the innumerable difficulties attendant upon the movement of large bodies of troops in a country almost unknown and unexplored; and who even forget that, in so doing, they are perpetuating that feeling of comfort and security which ultimately ends in a boundless love of our common country. But it is hard to believe that this portion of the community will be backward in rendering unto "Cesar the things that are Cæsar's," and granting to those heroes, who fall fighting in their country's cause, that praise and admiration so justly their due. If there are any such, they are not to be found in the ranks of the army, which may refer in after days, with a strong feeling of pride and satisfaction, to the noble bearing of THOMPSON, VAN SWARINGEN, BROOKE, and CENTER, whose fortune it was to fall in the recent conflict on the banks of the Okee-chub-bee. All, graduates of the military academy, they have nobly repaid their country by their blood for the education received at our only national institution.

If "England expects every man to do his duty," and "Don't give up the ship," have immortalized the names of NELSON and of LAWRENCE, the last bequest to his country of the fearless THOMPSON should not fail to place his name on the list of heroes of the world: "Be cool and charge the hammock—remember, men, to what regiment you belong," will be handed down to posterity, coupled with the name of THOMPSON, a mandate carrying destruction and devastation into the ranks of the enemy, and ending in honorable victory to the arms of those who imitate his glorious example. Wounded in each breast, he still moved forward, encouraged his men to be cool, and reserve their fire, in a manner as calm and collected, as if on parade, inspiring all with a determination to conquer or die, he was on the point of reaching the hammock, closely followed by his men, when a ball, unerring in its aim, pierced him in the throat and brought him to the ground. Reclining against a tree, still boldly fronting the enemy, with his sword firmly grasped in hand, and pointing to the post of honor, as if in defiance of the savage power, he yielded up his soul to the God of battles, a model for future aspirants to the military honors of their country.

His comrades in arms were not backward in imitating the example so nobly set them by their gal-

lant and daring chief. VAN SWEARINGEN and BROOKE, already distinguished by their bearing in a former war, each meriting, by his conduct, the title of a soldier, "sans peur et sans reproche," fell at their posts; the one carrying with him three honorable wounds to the grave, the other shot through the heart; there is some consolation left to the friends of the former, in a knowledge of the fact, that his rifle, never known to miss the mark at which it was aimed, was three times levelled, and the fatal trigger drawn, ere death had ended his short but brilliant career; and they will agree with the writer, that the estimate is not too great, when two at least of the ten found dead upon the field of battle are attributed to the effect of his arm.

Lieut. CENTER was comparatively young in the service, yet he had served his country long enough to secure the respect and friendship of all whose fortune it was to know him. In him were united the valor of the soldier, and the mind and polished manners of a gentleman. At an early age he entered the military academy, and was a graduate of that institution of the year 1833; he immediately joined his regiment at Jefferson Barracks, in Missouri, followed its fortunes to the banks of the Sabine, in the midst of threatened dangers with a neighboring power, and from thence repaired to join his comrades in the swamps and hammocks of Florida. Here, by his strict military discipline, his gentlemanly deportment, his attention to duty, and untiring exertions in the cause of those placed under his command, he won the hearts and confidence of all, and particularly of his Colonel. He was appointed Adjutant of the 6th Infantry, and in this capacity served with honor to himself and credit to his regiment, until shot through the head by a ball from an Indian rifle, he fell, "fighting in the hottest of the fight." Daring and brave, without rashness; cool and collected, and ever in the front when danger faced him; yet retiring in his manner in the ordinary intercourse of life; his frank and generous magnanimity, his disinterestedness, conspicuous on every occasion, the constancy and warmth of his attachments, caused him to be beloved by many, but by none more ardently than the friend who now offers this feeble, but heart-felt tribute, to his memory.

CARROLL.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

SENATE.

MONDAY, JAN. 22.

On motion of Mr. LUMPKIN,

Ordered, That 1500 copies of the reply of Boudinot to the report of Congress on the validity of the Cherokee Treaties, be printed for the use of the Senate.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a report of the Secretary of War, relative to certain claims on the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Also, a list and compensation of the clerks employed in the War Department.

Also, report of the Secretary of the Navy, containing the annual statement of the appropriation and expenditures for the past year. Severally laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CALHOUN submitted the following resolution, which was considered and adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before the Senate the report of the engineers of the Charleston and Cincinnati railroad, made in October, 1837.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, the bill to increase the U. S. military establishment was taken up for consideration.

Mr. B. explained, at length, the objects of the bill, remarking, however, that it was, in feature, precisely the same which passed the Senate at the last session.

Mr. BAYARD moved to recommit the bill, with instructions to report anew, with provisions for extending

the whole frame of the system. This motion was rejected, yeas 15, nays 27.

Mr. BENTON offered an amendment, additional, providing for the increase and pay of the Subsistence Department, which was adopted.

An amendment, offered by Mr. TIPTON, to the provision for two additional quartermasters, proposed to strike out *two* and insert *one* in lieu thereof; was lost.

The debate was continued at some length by Messrs. BENTON, PRESTON, BAYARD, NICHOLAS, TIPTON, and others, and sundry slight amendments adopted, when,

On motion of Mr. BUCHANAN, a further amendment to prohibit the detachment of Topographical Engineers from the service, for the service of private corporations, on pay exceeding that of the regular service; adopted.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25.

Mr. LINN offered a resolution, calling on the Secretary of War for statements of the amount of money expended on improvements in the Missouri river. Agreed to.

Also, for a copy of the recent survey made by Lieut. Lee, of obstructions in the channels of the Mississippi and Rock rivers, with estimates of the probable expense of removing such obstructions. Agreed to.

The bill to increase the U. S. military establishment, was read a third time and passed.

The bills making appropriations for the protection of the Northern Frontier, and for the suppression of Indian hostilities in Florida, were read twice and referred.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication of the Secretary of War enclosing the report of the Colonel of Ordnance, relative to the U. S. Mineral Districts, in compliance with a resolution of the 10th instant; ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAY, of Ala., presented the joint memorials of the Legislature of Alabama, praying for an appropriation for improving the navigation of the Tennessee river.

Also, to remunerate citizens for losses sustained by Indian depredations.

Also, to revoke certain contracts made by General Jesup, transferring to individuals Indian reservations of 500,000 acres, for 35,000 dollars; referred.

The bills from the House, making appropriation for the defence of the northern frontier:

Also, to continue the Seminole war: were severally read a third time, and passed.

On motion of Mr. NORVELL,

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce inquire into the expediency of making appropriations for the improvement of certain harbors in Michigan.

On motion of Mr. CLAY, of Ala.,

Resolved, That the Secretary of War communicate to the Senate the number of Creek Indians engaged in hostilities against the U. S. in 1836.

Mr. TIPTON introduced a bill, fixing the compensation of officers of the army on duty in the military bureaux of the War Department: read twice and referred.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18.

Mr. GRANTLAND reported the Senate bill, with an amendment, entitled an act to amend the fifth section of the act passed June 13, 1834, for the better organization of the Marine Corps.

On motion of Mr. CAMBRELENG, the Committee of Ways and Means was discharged from the further consideration of the report of the Secretary of War on the claims of the State of Massachusetts for services and advances during the late war, and that the same be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20.

Mr. COLES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, presented a bill to carry into effect the resolution of Congress for erecting monuments to the memory of certain general officers of the revolution, and for erecting a marble column at Yorktown, in Virginia.

[This bill makes an appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of carrying into effect certain resolutions of Congress, for erecting monuments to the memory of certain general officers of the Revolution, and for erecting a marble column at York, in Virginia. In New York, a monument to the memory of General Richard Montgomery, of New York; in Massachusetts,

a monument to the memory of General Joseph Warren, of Massachusetts; in Virginia, a monument to the memory of General Hugh Mercer, of Virginia; in Connecticut, a monument to the memory of General David Wooster, of Connecticut; in New York again, a monument to the memory of General Herkimer; in North Carolina, a monument to the memory of General Francis Nash; in Maryland, a monument to Baron De Kalb; in North Carolina, to Gen. Davidson; in Georgia, to Gen. Scriben; in Rhode Island, to Gen. Nathaniel Greene. One thousand dollars is proposed to be appropriated to each of these monuments; the monuments to be erected by the Governors of the States. Aside from this appropriation of \$10,000, \$20,000 is proposed to be appropriated for the purpose of erecting, under the direction of the Secretary of War, at Yorktown, Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and France, during the war of American Independence, and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to Gen. George Washington, to the Count Rochambeau, and to the Count De Grasse, of France.]

MONDAY, JAN. 22.

On motion of Mr. EVERETT, the House took up the memorial of the Cherokee Delegation, remonstrating against the New Echota Treaty of December, 1835, as fraudulent, for the purpose of referring the same

Mr. E. moved to refer the memorial to the Committee on Indian Affairs, with instructions to "report the facts of the case."

Mr. HAYNES moved to lay the motion and instructions on the table; which motion was decided in the negative.

Mr. EVERETT proceeded to make some remarks on the merits of the memorial, which were cut off by the expiration of the hour.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23.

Mr. CAMBRELENG, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making a partial appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year 1835. In support of this bill he called for the reading of a letter to the Secretary of War from T. Cross, acting Quartermaster General, stating the urgent necessity of an appropriation to meet drafts on him, which lay over. [The bill proposes to appropriate one million of dollars.] Mr. C. stated that much over two millions would be the total amount wanted for this item of expenditure for the year: and on the general appropriation he presumed there would be a long debate, involving the general subject of the Florida war; but, in the meanwhile, the passage of a temporary appropriation was indispensable, and he hoped it would be generally agreed to, and be passed without debate. He then moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and take up this bill, and also the bill to provide for the defense of the northern frontier.

A debate ensued, which had not closed when the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. CONNER in the Chair, on the bill to make appropriations for the suppression of Seminole hostilities.

After some debate, the bill was laid aside, and

The Committee considered the bill for the protection of the Northern Frontier.

The Committee then rose and reported both bills, without amendment.

The Seminole bill was then ordered to be engrossed, by a vote of, yeas 164, nays 2, and was subsequently read a third time and passed.

The bill making appropriations to protect the northern frontier was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time and passed.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25.

Mr. BOND reported a bill to enlarge the provisions of the act, entitled an act granting half pay to the widows and orphans whose fathers have died of wounds received in the military service of the United States, in certain cases, and for other purposes.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—We learn that a new difficulty has arisen, as to the character of the vessels intended to compose the squadron for this expedition. According to the last plan, it is to be reduced to a sloop of war; one ship of about 450 tons,

(the Relief,) one brig, and the schooner Active. In the opinion of Capt. KEARNY, (who had accepted the command after Capt. JONES' retirement,) and the officers associated with him, there would not be, on board these vessels, sufficient accommodation for so large a scientific corps as that appointed by the President. We regret to add that Capt. KEARNY, on the 18th instant, resigned the command of the squadron, and that his resignation has been accepted.—*National Intelligencer.*

FLORIDA WAR. OFFICIAL.

HEAD QUARTERS, First Brigade, {
Army South of the Withlacoochee, }
Camp about ten miles east of the Kissimmee,

8 P. M., Dec. 26, 1837.

GENERAL: A part of my force left Fort Gardiner on the 19th inst., and I left with the balance, (excepting a small force to protect the supplies at that fort.) On the following morning, after a rapid march down the Kissimmee, of which movement I advised you in my letter of the 19th, I reached its banks again on the evening of the third day, about 15 miles above its entrance into Lake Okee-chobee; and learning, from a prisoner I captured on that day, that Alligator, with all the war spirits of the Seminoles, with Sam Jones and one hundred and seventy-five Mickasuekeys, were encamped about 25 miles distant, on the east side of the Kissimmee, I crossed the Kissimmee (where I left Capt. Munroe with his company, the pioneers, pontoneers, and a large portion of the Delaware Indians, who declined going, alleging that their feet and legs were so badly cut by the saw palmetto, that they could not march further,) the next day, taking the captured Indian with me as a guide, who went very reluctantly, in pursuit of the enemy; and, after passing several cypress swamps and dense hammocks, I reached the vicinity of the enemy's encampment on the morning of the 25th; and, although occupying one of the strongest and most difficult places to approach and enter in Florida, which, no doubt, had been selected for the purpose of giving me battle there, as I was informed by a prisoner I took the evening previous; but, relying on the valor of the officers and soldiers of my command, as well as on the skill of the former, I did not hesitate a moment in bringing them to action.

After making the necessary arrangements, I entered a swamp nearly a mile in width, impassable for horse, and almost so for foot. I reached the hammocks in which they were stationed between 12 and 1 P. M., when the action commenced; the enemy opening a warm fire on the volunteers, who composed the first line, a great portion of whom fell back in the rear of the fourth and sixth infantry; which corps, under one of the warmest and most destructive fires ever experienced from Indians, particularly the sixth, pressed forward, gained the hammock, and, after a severe struggle for more than an hour, after being joined by the 1st infantry, which were held in reserve, and two companies of the 4th, that had been detached to the right, who joined a short time before the close of the battle, the enemy was completely routed, and driven in every direction, and were pursued by the troops until near night, and until they were completely exhausted.

The victory was dearly purchased; but I flatter myself that the result will be equivalent to the sacrifice made. The enemy made his greatest efforts to break the centre of the 6th, killing and wounding every officer of four companies, with one exception, and every orderly sergeant of these companies; killing its gallant commander and adjutant, who fell where they fought, in the hottest of the action, and mortally wounding the sergeant major, who is since dead. The next day was employed in the sad offices of interring the dead, and taking care of the wounded, all of whom

were brought back across the morass to camp that evening, with one exception, not being able to find the body, and in constructing litters to convey the wounded to the place where I left my wagons. I am thus far on my way to that point, and shall reach there to-morrow, when I shall take as good care of the wounded as possible, and also recruit my men and horses at my several advanced depots, particularly the latter, before I can again take the field.

The enemy, all things considered, probably suffered equally with ourselves. They left ten bodies on the field, besides carrying many off, without doubt, as there were traces of blood to the banks of the Okee-cho-bee lake, on the borders of which the battle was fought.

Wishing you health and happiness,

I remain, General, &c.

Z. TAYLOR,
Colonel Commanding.

Maj. Gen. T. S. JESUP,

Commanding army of the South, Florida.

P. S. As soon as I can do so, I will mail you a more full report of the battle and my operations. I am now writing without candle, with pine knots as a substitute, in a cabbage-tree hammock, in the centre of a large prairie, on a very dirty sheet of paper, paper, which is the only one in camp.

Abstract from the report of the killed and wounded in the affair of the 25th December, 1837.

REGULAR ARMY.

KILLED—Lieut. Col. A. R. Thompson, 6th U. S. infantry; Adjutant J. P. Center, do.; Captain Van Swearingen, do.; First Lieutenant F. J. Brooke, do.; and nineteen rank and file.

WOUNDED—Captain G. Andrews, 6th U. S. infantry; First Lieutenant J. L. Hooper, 4th do.; Second Lieutenant W. H. T. Walker, 6th do.; and seventy-six rank and file.

Aggregate regulars killed, 23; aggregate wounded, 79.

MISSOURI VOLUNTEERS, &c.

WOUNDED—Colonel Gentry, Missouri volunteers, (since dead,) Major Sconce, spies; Capt. J. Childs, Missouri volunteers; Lieut. C. B. Rogers, Lieut. Hase, spies; Lieut. Gordon, do.; and twenty-eight rank and file killed and wounded.

Aggregate militia killed and wounded, 35.

SEMINOLE WAR—CHEROKEE MEDIATION. *From the National Intelligencer.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: The undersigned, citizens of the Cherokee Nation, are the individuals who were deputed by their Government, at the request of the Government of the United States, to go down into Florida, to use their influence with the Seminole people, to bring the hostilities which unhappily exist to a close. Since the unfortunate issue of their mission, in the imprisonment, by the American General, of the Seminole chiefs whom we had prevailed on to come in to treat for peace, we have come to Washington to make our report of our proceedings. Soon after our arrival here, we perceived certain charges going the rounds of the public newspapers, impugning the integrity of the Cherokee mediators. These charges, coming, as they did, by vague rumor, and in no responsible form, we were not disposed to notice them; but, from the proceedings of the House of Representatives for the last two days, we discover that our honor and integrity have been assailed, and brought forward in public discussion by honorable members of the House. Presented now, as these charges are, in this imposing form, we feel it due to ourselves, and to our country, no longer to remain silent.

We are charged with treachery, by persuading the Seminoles to continue the war, when we went in the characters of peace-makers; charges which, if true, ought to consign us to merited punishment for

so faithless an act, and sink our individual reputation, and that of our country, into irredeemable infamy. If it can be made appear that we are the perfidious beings, let us be held responsible for the evils that have ensued, and suffer for our folly. We will not flinch from responsibility, or shrink from investigation. We now pronounce the charges, in every shape they have been made, or may be presented, to be as base as they are unfounded. As the individuals who compose the deputation, we call on any officer, high or low, or any other man, to come forward and substantiate the fact, that the late deputation did prove treacherous to the character they bore, in their visit to the hostile camps of the Seminole Indians.

We hope the public will suspend their sentence of condemnation against us until facts are produced, as we do not deem it necessary now to enter into a formal defence against the charges.

We beg of you to permit this communication to go to the public through the medium of the *Intelligencer*, together with Gen. JESUP's letters to the honorable Secretary of War and the Deputation.

We are, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,

RICHARD FIELDS,
HAIR CONRAD,
THOS. WOODARD,
JESSE BUSHYHEAD.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, January 19, 1838.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., and herewith transmit you a copy of the letter desired by you.

Very respectfully, your most obd't serv't,

J. R. POINSETT.

JOHN ROSS, Esq., Washington city.

Gen. Jesup to the Secretary of War.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
FORT MELLON, Dec. 15, 1837.

SIR: The Cherokee delegation will leave in the first steamer that goes down to Garey's ferry, on their return to their homes. It is due to justice that I should express to you the high sense which I entertain of their character and conduct. Their mission has terminated, as I believed it would from the beginning, unsuccessfully; but they have acted with the most untiring zeal and earnestness in endeavoring to convince the misguided chiefs of the Seminoles and Mickasukies, as well as their people, of the advantages of peace, and the necessity of fulfilling their treaty engagements.

Having entertained some doubts as to the true objects of the mission, which I expressed to you before I became acquainted with the members of the delegation, I consider it due to them, as well as to myself, to assure you of my belief that they have acted throughout in perfect good faith, and with a sincere desire to serve you and our country, and to benefit the Indians by enlightening them in regard to their true interests.

Immediately on the failure of the mediation becoming certain, I sent to St. Augustine seventy-two Indians who were at and near camp; among them are Micanopy, the principal chief of the nation, Cloud, the war-chief, who commanded at the Wahoo, and Nocose-Yahola, the Creek chief of highest rank, who came down from Alabama in 1836.

We have now no prospect of terminating the war except by battle; but it is extremely doubtful whether the Indians will fight; their policy is to fly; knowing, as they do, that on the approach of summer the climate will fight their battles for them, and drive us from the country.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c.

TH. S. JESUP.

The Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War, Washington city.

Gen. Jesup to the Deputation.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
FORT MELLON, Dec. 15, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your communication of this day's date, and I seize the occasion to assure you of the respect which I entertain for you, collectively and individually; a respect inspired alike by your official conduct and personal deportment.

I regret with you the failure of your friendly and philanthropic mission; but I shall, on every proper occasion, bear testimony to the zealous and untiring efforts you have made, and the hazards you have encountered, in fulfilling the duties assigned to you by your chief.

In common with the majority of my fellow-citizens, I am the friend of the red man, and would rather confer benefits than inflict injuries upon him. Should the fortune of war place any of the Seminoles or Miccosukies in my hands, they will be treated with kindness, and every indulgence will be extended to them not incompatible with their security.

As to the Chiefs Micanopy and Cloud, they came in to remain; they were hostages under the treaty at Fort Dade; were forcibly carried off, and Micanopy, at least, was on his way to join me at Tampa Bay, where he supposed he would find me, before he heard of your arrival. He is aware that I have sent him, and the warriors who accompanied him, to St. Augustine, in consequence of the recent conduct of Appiacca and other chiefs, and their people.

I most ardently desire that the war may be terminated, if possible, without bloodshed, and I shall avail myself of every favorable occurrence so to terminate it.

In returning to your homes, you have my best wishes for the peace, prosperity, and happiness of yourselves and your people. And I am, gentlemen, with great regard, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.

To Messrs. RICHARD FIELDS,
HAIR CONRAD,
THOMAS WOODARD, and
JESSE BUSHYHEAD,
Members of the Cherokee Delegation.

FROM THE NIAGARA FRONTIER.

We have letters from Buffalo, dated the 22d of January, from which it appears that the Navy Islanders are still in that vicinity, seeking for means of transportation up the lake. But thus far, General Scott has nullified all their expectations, by taking both the steamboats New England and Barcelona in the employ of the Government. These were the only boats the adventurers could have procured.

Col. Worth left Buffalo on the 20th, in the steamboat Robert Fulton, with 150 United States recruits, and a number of volunteers, with orders to proceed up the lake, and prevent any armed parties landing in Canada; and on the day our correspondent writes, the 22d, Major Young, with 150 recruits, and about the same number of volunteers, was embarking on the steamboat New England, with the view of co-operating with Col. Worth. Our correspondent adds, that Gen. Scott has acted with great energy in enforcing respect for our neutral obligations, at the same time that he was prepared to resist any violation of our soil by the loyalists.

Col. McNab is no longer in command on the Canada shore, and a perfectly good understanding exists between Gen. Scott and Col. Hughes, the British Commandant, in relation to the measures to be taken to keep the people on both sides quiet. We are rejoiced that the interests of the two countries are in such prudent hands, as the consequences cannot fail to be highly favorable to a continuance of the good understanding now existing.—*N. York Courier and Enquirer.*

THE ARMY.—We give below the General Orders issued by General Scott, commander of the U. S. forces now on this frontier.—*Buffalo Journal.*

HEAD QUARTERS, EASTERN DIVISION, Buffalo, January 18, 1838.

ORDERS, No. 3.

The following is the temporary staff of Maj. Gen. Scott, who is personally in command on this frontier. Lieut. Col. WORTH, chief of the staff, whose duties will not be confined to any particular department, but extended to all and each.

The Aid-de-camp of the Major General is Lt. KEVES, and TALCOTT an acting Aid-de-camp.

Captain THOMAS, Assistant Quarter Master, who is hourly expected, and Lieut. THORNTON who will continue to act in the Quarter Master's Department after, as before, the arrival of Captain THOMAS.

Lieut. THORNTON will also continue in the discharge of the duties of Ordnance officer.

Lieut. TAYLOR is the chief and director of the Commissariat Department, and will appoint the agents necessary for the issue of subsistence to the troops.

Assistant Surgeon Dr. HEISKELL, of the U. S. army, is the chief and director of the Medical Department, with a general superintendence over Hospitals or the care of the sick, and charged with supplying the Hospitals or the sick with every thing allowed by regulations.

Each of the foregoing officers will be obeyed and respected according to the duties attached to him.

Lieut. Col. WORTH, aided by one of the Staff, and with such assistance as he may obtain from the volunteers or militia, will proceed to muster into the service of the United States for three months, unless sooner discharged, such portions of the Brigades of the New York Militia, now under arms on this frontier, as may be reported by the State authority as ready to be so mustered.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

By Command,
W. J. WORTH, Lieut. Col.
Chief of Staff.

CANADA FRONTIER.

From the Albany Argus of Jan. 24.

We have Buffalo papers of the 19th and 20th inst., two mails having arrived.

The cannon of the State have been embezzled, and we do not hesitate to say, under circumstances altogether unjustifiable. We copy from the Buffalo Daily Star of the 20th:

The facts are briefly these,—after the cannon had been restored, they were left in charge of Col. Ransom, at Tonawanda, and were yesterday obtained from him under the following circumstances: An order, of which the following is a copy, was presented to Col. Ransom:

"Buffalo, Head Quarters, Jan. 18, 1838.
"Col. H. B. Ransom, Commander-in-Chief at Tonawanda:

"Please send on those pieces of cannon, which are stopped at your place. Let the team come on with them.

Yours, in haste,

W. SCOTT,

Commander-in-Chief on the frontier of Niagara." When this order was presented, Col. Ransom doubted the genuineness of it, on account of the bungling and unmilitary manner in which it was written, and exhibited it to some persons at Tonawanda, who advised him to "send along the cannon of course." Col. Ransom still hesitated, when a citizen of this county stepped up, and said that he had seen General Scott write, and he had no hesitation in saying that he believed the order to be in the hand writing of General Scott, and actually reduced that statement to the form of an affidavit, and made oath to it. Upon this satisfactory proof, Col. Ransom was induced to let the cannon go.

It appeared, upon investigation, (says the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser,) that the order from General Scott was a forgery, and that some person or persons adopted this course in order to recover these guns from the protection of the State, to which they had been surrendered only so long as suited their purposes.

We learn, verbally, from Buffalo, as late as Saturday evening, that the Steamboat United States was about to leave that port for Detroit, with more or less of the Navy Island force, (and probably their arms, &c., also;) but that General Scott had given the parties notice that he should fire upon the boat if the enterprise was started.

The schooner Savannah cleared at Buffalo, for Dunkirk, on the 18th inst., and was preparing to sail on the same evening, when information having been given to the collector, that she was destined to take a large number of men from some place in the vicinity, he had her seized.

The Buffalo papers of the 22d contain nothing interesting, with regard to the movements on the frontier. Lieut. Champlin, U. S. N., so much distinguished for his gallant conduct in the battle of Lake Erie, during the last war, has been appointed to take command of the U. S. naval forces on the lake. The Robert Fulton, under the command of Lieut. Homans, left Buffalo on the 21st, on a cruise up the lake, having on board Col. Worth, Capt. Wright, and Lieut. Talcott, U. S. A., with 175 men; 20 of these were volunteers from Gen. Burt's brigade. The New England, under the command of Lieut. Champlin, was to leave on the 22d.

The steamboat Barcelona has been given up by Lieut. Homans, in consequence of her being too small for the purpose.—*N. Y. Express*.

CAPTURE.—Col. H. L. Ensworth, with a detachment of the 8th Brigade, accompanied by one of the Deputy Marshals, succeeded in regaining two pieces of cannon, and several stands of arms, with powder, balls, &c., belonging to the State. They were found at Goodrich's, some fifteen miles up the lake.—*Buffalo Journal*.

The citizens of Oswego have held a large public meeting, at which resolutions were passed, calling upon the National Government to put that port in a state of defence. They recommend the repairing of Fort Ontario, and the establishment of a military post.

LIEUT. HOMANS.—This gentleman, who has resided a year or two among us, has been appointed by the Government to take charge of the U. S. naval forces on the lake, and left here this morning in the steamboat Barcelona, destination unknown. On board there were two companies, one of the militia and the other regulars.

We also learn that the steamboat Robert Fulton has been chartered by the Government, and will leave as soon as the necessary repairs are completed. It is rumored that Capt. Champlin, of the United States Navy, will take the command. A better appointment, were it necessary to take these steps to preserve our neutrality, could not have been made.—*Buffalo Jour. Jan. 20.*

A Natchez paper, in speaking of the wreck of the steamboat Black Hawk, says:

"The loss of money and property was very considerable; Major De Russy was in possession of about three hundred thousand dollars, Government money, for the purpose of disbursing, of which about forty thousand dollars were blown through and about the boat, many of the boxes being entirely broken to pieces and their contents scattered. It is supposed that about 8 or 10 thousand dollars went into the river, and, consequently, will be lost; also many trunks, containing money and property of value belonging to the passengers."

We learn from Captain Chase, of the steamer James Adams, arrived at this post this afternoon from Black Creek, that, on the 8th instant, General JESUP captured one Indian, and shot another in the vicinity of the Cypress Swamp. The captured Indian states that Sam Jones and his followers were upon an Island, and that he would take Gen. Jesup to where Sam Jones was. General Jesup was at the Cypress Swamp, waiting the arrival of General Hernandez, when he would immediately move in search of Sam Jones and his band.—*Charleston Courier, Jan. 22.*

HOME SQUADRON—RELIEF TO VESSELS ON THE COAST.—We are happy to learn that Commodore Ridgely has received instructions to send the brigs Pioneer and Consort, and schooner Active, immediately to sea, to give relief and protection to distressed vessels bound to our ports. The Pioneer will cruise in the track of homeward bound vessels to Boston, and other eastern ports. The Consort will cruise between Sandy Hook and the South Shoals of Nantucket; and the Active will cruise between Sandy Hook and the Capes of Virginia, for the benefit of vessels bound to the Chesapeake and Delaware bays. They are all well found with extra provisions and men, and were to go to sea to-day.—*N. York American, Jan. 27.*

ATLANTIC STEAM NAVIGATION.—At last the long talked of attempt to navigate the Atlantic by steam, is certainly on the point of being made. Lieut. J. Hosken, of the royal navy, arrived here on Thursday from Liverpool, in the Garrick, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the reception of the "Great western steam ship," and for keeping up an intercourse, by her means, with Great Britain. She is already built, and is now in London taking in her machinery.

Having accomplished the object of his present voyage, Lieut. Hosken will immediately return and assume the command of this vessel, in which he expects to arrive at this port in the course of the month of April next. Her points of departure are Bristol and New York. She is about 1350 tons burden, and it is calculated will carry about 600 tons of coal.—*New York Courier*.

AN INTERESTING WORK FORTHCOMING.—The Philadelphia U. S. Gazette has the following announcement: Dr. Ruschenberger's Embassy to Muscat and Siam, including a voyage round the world, in the years 1835, '6, and '7, is nearly ready, and will shortly be published by Carey, Lea & Blanchard.

Before the return of the ship Peacock, it was announced that the author of the work, "Three Years in the Pacific," had in preparation a volume embracing a history of the cruise of the vessel which was employed to carry out the treaties negotiated by Mr. Roberts. The volume, we learn, will shortly be published.

In addition to the latest, and, of course, most valuable information connected with the courts of Muscat and Siam, the work will contain highly graphic sketches of Zanzibar, Arabia, Hindostan, Ceylon, Java, Cochin China, the Bouin Island, of which but little is known among us, the Sandwich Islands, the Californias, Mexico, &c. It cannot fail to command attention, not only from the popularity of the author, but from the great extent of country that came under his notice.

IMPORTANT TO SHIP OWNERS.—In a suit brought in the United States Circuit Court at Boston, by William Sherwood against Isaac Hall and Thomas Curtis, for the services of his minor son, who had shipped and performed a voyage on board a vessel of the defendant, the master having been notified of his minority at the time of shipping him, the court

held that shipping the libellant's minor son was an illegal act, and that notice of his being a minor to the master, was sufficient to render the owners liable; and the court accordingly awarded damages in the sum of \$25 per month, during the absence of the minor, and \$50 additional charges.

ARMY.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

No. 3—Jan. 23—Leave of absence to Capt. J. H. Bur-gwin, 1st Dragoons, and Lieut. J. M. Wells, 7th Inf., extended two months.

Asst. Sur. Fellowes, to report to Gen. Scott, on the Niagara frontier, for duty.

No. 4—Jan. 27—2d Lieut. Hathaway, 1st Art'y, temporary duty in Susistence Department, at Charleston, S. C.

No. 5—Jan. 31—Leave of absence to Capt. E. Lyon, 3d Art'y, extended four months, for the benefit of his health.

RESIGNATION.

Chaplain Thomas Warner, Mil. Acad. June, 1838.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

Jan. 23—Mid. Lardner Gibbon, W. I. squadron.

24—Com'r W. Mervine, relieved from command of ship Natchez, to take effect on the 1st April; and Com'r B. Page, assigned to the command.

25—P. Mid. J. M. Lockert, det'd from W. I. squad.

Mid. J. D. Johnston, Naval School, New York.

26—Mid. Geo. Wells, Navy Yard, Boston.

Lieuts. W. L. Howard, Theo. Baily, do. N. Y.

27—Lieut. H. A. Adams, detached from ship Concord.

29—Surgeon T. J. Boyd, Naval Hospital, New York.

Com'r F. H. Gregory, command S. S. S. & E. E.

30—Boatswain L. Gallaher, Navy Yard, Portsmouth.

Officers ordered to the ship Erie, at Boston, preparing for a cruise on the coast.

Commander, A. S. TEN EICK.

Lieutenants, J. S. Paine, H. K. Thatcher, G. A. Prentiss, G. Hurst, R. Handy.

Passed Ass't Surgeon, J. C. Spencer. Ass't Sur., J. M. Smith. Purser, B. J. Cahoon. Acting master, G. L. Selden.

Passed Midshipmen, H. T. Wingate, J. Mooney, L. B. Avery.

Midshipmen, N. C. Bryant, J. P. McFarland, B. N. Westcott, J. J. Barry, I. G. Strain.

Boatswain, John Morrison. Gunner, Wm. Craig. Carpenter, S. G. Macomb. Sailmaker, Geo. Thomas.

VESSELS REPORTED.

The North Carolina, 74. Com. Ballard, was at Callao, Sept. 15th, officers and crew all well.

Ship Independence, Commo. Nicolson, and sloop of war Fairfield, Com'r. Mayo, were at Bahia, 19th December, all well.

Ship Boston, Com'r Babbit, at Matanzas, Jan. 10. Officers : E. B. Babbit, commander. T. J. Manning, E. W. Moore, W. Radford, Lieutenants. H. N. Glentworth, Surgeon. P. A. Southall, Purser. J. J. B. Walbach, Acting Master. J. C. Howell, J. Rutledge, George Co-megys, J. H. Brown, and W. Reid, Midshipmen. J. W. Getty, Captain's Clerk.

Ships Vandalia, and Natchez, went to sea from Pensacola on a cruise, about the 10th ult.

Ship Concord, Lieut. Adams commanding, arrived at Pensacola on the 9th ult. from a cruise to the coast of Mexico and Texas. Left Tampico on the 1st January.

The Mexican ship of war Maryland arrived at Vera Cruz on the — Dec., from Baltimore; 20 of the seamen that went out in the Mexican ship, came passengers in the Concord.

Schr. Grampus, Lt. Comdt. Peck, arrived at Pensacola, on the 15th ult. from a cruise. All well on board.

Revenue Cutter Dexter, Lt. Comdt. Gay Moore, from Mobile, and a cruise, bound to Norfolk, put into Charlestion on the 20th ult. to repair damages, sustained in a gale of wind off the Double Headed Shot Keys on the 14th.

MARRIAGES.

At Braynefield, Caroline County, Va, on the 24th ult. Lieut. THOMAS R. ROOTES, U. S. Navy, to Miss MARY OVERTON, second daughter of the late GARRET MINOR, Esq.

In Augusta, (Geo.) on the 10th ult. Lieut. WILLIAM H. BETTS, U. S. A. to Miss ELIZABETH GORDON, daughter of Col. JOSEPH HUTCHINSON, of Montgomery, Alabama.

DEATH.

On board ship Rienzi, at the English Turn, New Orleans, on the 15th ult. of consumption, Mr. Wm. BOSWELL, a cadet from West Point, N. Y. a native of Barberville, Ky. aged 20 years.

YELLOW PINE AND WHITE OAK TIMBER.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, {
January 4, 1838. }

PROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed, will be received at this office until three o'clock, p. m. of the third day of February next, for the following Yellow Pine and White Oak timber, delivered at the Navy Yard, Gosport, Va.

No. 1. One set of yellow pine beams, for a frigate of the first class.

No. 2. Two sets of yellow pine beams, for sloops of war, first class.

No. 3. Twenty thousand cubic feet of yellow pine plank stocks.

No. 4. Twenty thousand cubic feet of yellow pine plank stocks.

No. 5. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.

No. 6. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.

No. 7. Twenty thousand cubic feet do. do. do.

No. 8. Twenty thousand cubic feet white oak plank stocks.

The beam pieces and one half of the plank stocks to be delivered on or before the 30th April, 1839, and the other half of the plank stocks on or before the 30th April, 1840.

Persons offering will make their offers separately for the quantities and kind of timber embraced in any of the above numbers, and they will be considered and decided independently of each other.

Schedules of the beam pieces will be furnished on application to the Commissioners of the Navy, or to the Commandant of the Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia.

The yellow pine beam pieces and plank stocks must be the best quality long leaf, fine grain, heart, Southern yellow pine timber. The white oak plank stocks must be of the best quality, and must have grown on lands situated near to salt water, or within the influence of the sea air; and the white oak and yellow pine plank stocks must have been girdled or felled between the twentieth day of October and the twentieth day of March, next preceding the deliveries; all of which must be proved to the satisfaction of the commanding officer of the said Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia.

All the said timber must be free from sap, heart shakes, wind shakes, and all other defects.

The plank stocks must average forty-five feet in length, and none of them must be less than thirty-five feet long; the white oak plank stocks must square not less than fourteen inches at the butt, and may square one-fourth less at the top; the yellow pine stocks must square not less than fourteen, nor more than sixteen, inches at the butt, and may square one-fifth less at the top.

Ten per centum will be withheld from the amount of each delivery made, as collateral security, in addition to the bonds given, to secure the performance of the respective contracts, which will in no event be paid until the contracts are complied with in all respects.

Ninety per centum will be paid within thirty days after the bills for the timber shall be approved and presented to the Navy Agent.

All of the said timber must be subject to inspection and measurement by the inspector and measurer of timber at the said Navy Yard, Gosport, or by such other person or persons as may be designated by the Commissioners of the Navy for the performance of that duty; and in all cases the timber must be in all respects to the acceptance and satisfaction of the commanding officer of the said Navy Yard, and approved by him.

Jan. 4—t3Feb.